391

Old Mr. DODS SAYINGS.

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396

OLD Mr. DOD'S SAYINGS.

1. NOthing can hurt us but Sin, and that ſhall not hurt us, if we can repent of it. And nothing can do us good but the Love and Favour of God in Chriſt, and that we ſhall have, if we ſeek it.

2. No man is in a ſad condition, but he that hath a hard heart and cannot pray.

3. So much Sin, ſo much Sorrow; So much Holineſs, ſo much happineſs.

4. Make thy Sin thy greateſt Sorrow; ſo ſhall thy Sorrow never hurt thee. Make Jeſus Chriſt thy greateſt Joy, ſo ſhalt thou never want joy.

5. A man that hath the Spirit of prayer, hath more then if he had all the world.

6. Two things to be commended to a Married Couple, Cares, and ſtrifes. For the firſt, Let your cares be, which ſhall pleaſe God moſt; for your ſtrifes, let them be, which ſhall love one another beſt: So will your cares and ſtrifes be to purpoſe; So will all needleſs Cares and ſtrifes vanish.

7. If you be in a married eſtate, know and believe it, Though you might have had a fairer, or richer wife or husband, yet ſure enough you could never have had a fitter,

because it was so appointed by God in heaven, before it could be accomplished here on earth; and therefore, though mutual love be not performed to thee, yet do thou thy part in obedience to God, & thou shalt be sure to have comfort in the end, though God exercise thee with chastisements for a time.

8. There can no afflictions or miseries befal us, but by Gods appointment, and cannot hurt us, but must needs do us good, if we be Gods Children. But first, be sure you mix not sin with them, for that only makes them bitter Secondly, Look not at the rod, but at him that smiteth; for that causeth fretting and fainting both.

9. If thou desirest to be assured thy sins be forgiven thee, labour to forgive injuries and offences done unto thee, according to that in Mat. 6.14.15. Four things consider to this end: 1. Christs example, who forgave and prayed for his enemies. 2. Christs command, when ye pray, forgive, if ye have ought against any man. 3. Christs promise, If ye forgive ye shal be forgiven. 4. Christs threatning, If ye forgive not, ye shal not be forgiven.

10. In all miseries and distresses it's best wisdom to go to that friend that is most near, most willing, and most able to help; such a friend is God. 11. He

11. He would often say, he had no reason to complain of his crosses, seeing they were but the bitter fruit of his sins.

12. Where sins lyes heavy, crosses ly light and contrary, where crosses ly heavy, sins lye light.

13. Either prayer will made a man give over sinning, or sin will make a man give over praying.

14. Four things we may learn from children: 1. They take no unnecessary care. 2. They sleep without malice. 3. They are content with their condition. 4. They are humble; the child of a King will play with the child of a begger.

15. There is no affliction so small, but we should sink under it, if God upheld not; and there is no sin so great but we commit it, if God restrain not.

16. If we be railed on, or reviled, or injuriously dealt withal by friend or foe, we should be more troubled for the sin against God, then for the offence done to our selves.

17. A godly man is like a sheep, every place is the better for him where he comes a wicked man is like a goat, every place is the worse for him; he leaves a stinking savour behind him.

18. Sanctified afflictions are spiritual promotions, and are far better for a Christian,

an then all the silver and gold in the world, being that the tryal of our Faith is much more precious then of gold that perisheth, 1 Pet. 1. 6.

19. Directions for the Lords day: make the Sabbath the market-day for thy Soul: Lose not one hour, but be either praying, conferring, or meditating; think not thy own thoughts; let every Day have its duties; turn the Sermon heard into matter of prayer: Instruction into petition, reproof into confession, consolation into thanksgiving: think much of the Sermon heard, and make something of it all the week long.

20. Directions for every day: First, For morning. Every morning presuppose. 1. I must die, 2. I may die or night. 3. whether will my soul go, to heaven or hell? Secondly, for night. Every night ask at thy Soul these questions. 1. have I twice this day humbled my self before God in private? How did I pray? In faith and love? 2. what have my thoughts been this day? 4. what have I been in my place and calling? 5. what have I been in company? Did I speak of good things? or did I hear, and with Mary, lay up? 6. I[illegible] with the morning, renewed mercies, was I thankful? 7. If the day afforded me matter of

sorrow,

sorrow, did I fret? or did I lye in the dust before God? 8. when you have thus done, where have you been failing, confesse it with sorrow; the lesse work you will have to do when death comes. Thus every night reckon right with thy God, This hath been my daily course, and shall be my practice till I die.

21. What we win by prayer, we shall wear with comfort.

22. There is a twofold assurance: 1. A Sun-shine. 2. A Moon-shine assurance. The first is that full assurance, in Heb. 10. 22. The Moon-shine is that of the Word, to the which we do well that we take heed, 1 Thess. 1. 5. 2 Pet. 1. 18. The first is given but to few, and that but seldom; and that either upon some great Duty to be performed, or some new condition of Life to be entered into, or upon some great suffering to be undergone, of which one saith, the hour it comes, is but seldom, and the stay of it short. The second is that we must trust to, A relying upon the sure Word of God, by the Faith of Adherence, when we want the other, the spirit of full assurance.

23. For the comfort of Gods people, he observed out of the 129. Psal. that though the wicked were the plowers of the righteous, and would plow deep, make long furrows,

rows, and even plew their hearts out, if they could, yet the righteous Lord that sits in heaven laughs at them, and cuts their cords, and then they can plew no more.

24. In case of persecutions and other sufferings, Gods people should seriously consider these 4 things. 1. God wills them, and sends them: now Gods will is a perfect rule of righteousnes; and what God doth, is so well done, that it could not be better done: 2. There is need of them, or else we should not have them. 3. Their number, measure, and continuance is determined by God: they are but for a moment, and last but for few days, Rev. 2. 10. Not too heavy, too many, or too long, as the devil would have them; not too few, too short, or too light, as our corrupt natures would have them. 4. their end is a weight of glory, & the crown that attends them, everlasting, 2 Cor. 4. 17.

25 Three things make a man count himself happy here below. 1. To have a good estate. 2. To have it in a good place. 3. By good neighbors. Now these three, they that die in the Lord eminently enjoy. 1. Their heavenly inheritance great; eye hath not seen nor ear heard the like; 1 Cor. 2 9 2. It is in a good place. 2 Cor. heaven, which is a house made for them, and made by God, and therefore must need be good. 3. By good neighbours,

[illegible], the Spirit, Angels, and Saints. [illegible] had a good inheritance, and in a good place, but he had an evil neighbor of the devil that troubled him, and marred all, but there is no evil Neighbours in Heaven.

26. The passions of Gods people do not hinder the success of their prayers. Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are and he prayed, and was heard, Jam. 5. 17.

27. Three things concurr to the making up of the sin against the holy Ghost. 1. Light in the mind. 2. Malice in the heart. 3. The insensibleness of the sin. He that fears he hath committed it, hath not committed it.

28. The Reason why many are not wrought upon, that live under powerful means of Grace, when many that live at a great distance, and come seldom under a powerful Preacher, are wrought upon by it, he used to give by this similitude; As in a Market-town, the towns people matter not so much for Market wares, as they that live in the countrey, they come to buy, and must and will have what they want, what ever they pay for it; whereas they that live in the town, think they may buy at any time, and so neglect buying at present, and at last, often times they are disappointed.

29. To perswade us not to return railing for [illegible], he would say, that if a dog bark

ed at a sheep, a sheep will not bark at a dog.

30. Four arguments against immoderate cares for earthly things, that we might not dishonor or deny God, he observed out of Mat. 6. 1. It is needless, 2. It is brutish. 3. It is bootless. 4. It is heathenish. 1. Needless. What need we care and God too? v. 30. 31. 32. Our heavenly Father knows we have need of these things, and he bids us be careful for nothing, but cast our cares on him who careth for us. 2. It is brutish, nay, more then brutish, v. 20. consider the fowls of the air, and ravens that he feeds, they toil not. 3. It is bootless, and to no purpose, v. 27. Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature, or pennie to his estate. 4. It is heathenish: After all these things the Gentiles seek, v. 32.

31. Many in the World take their saintship upon trust, and trade in the duties of Religion, with the credit they have gained from others opinions; they believe themselves to be Christians, because others hope them to be such, and so zealously trade in duties that ly utmost, to keep up their credit, but never look for a stock of solid grace within, and this undoes many.

32. As we read of daily bread, so of a daily cross, Luke 9. 23. Which we are bid to take, not to make. We need not make crosses

croſſes for our ſelves, as we are too prone to do; but let God make them for us; croſſes being made in heaven, beſt fit the Saints backs; and we muſt not lay them down, till they and we ly down together.

33. It was a notable Saying of a holy man, Quench hell, and burn heaven, yet I will love and fear my God.

34. It is not crying upon the Devil, or declaiming againſt ſin in prayer or diſcourſe but fighting with the Devil, and mortifying our luſts, that God chiefly looks upon

35. The empty Profeſſor diſappoints two at once. 1. The World, who ſeeing his leaves, expects fruit, but finds none. 2. Himſelf who thinks to reach heaven, but falls short of it.

36. The only way for a diſtreſſed Soul that cannot faſten on former comforts, by reaſon of future back-ſlidings; and ſo queſtions all his former evidences, is to renew his repentance, as if he had never believed.

37. Some are apt to think, if they are in ſuch a family, under ſuch a Miniſter, out of ſuch temptations, the devil would not medle with them as he doth: But ſuch should know, that ſo long as his old friend is alive within, he will be knocking at the door without.

38. The ſeed where ſown ſo deep in the

nature

nature of the devil, and the saint, that they will never be rooted out, till the devil cease to be a devil, and sin to be sin, and the saint to be a saint.

39. The sinner is the Devils Miller always grinding, and the Devil is always filling the hooper, that the Mill may not stand still.

40. There be some sins that an ignorant person cannot commit; but there are far more that an ignorant person cannot but commit.

41. There be five tyes by which the God of heaven hath bound himself to be the saints life-guard against the powers of darkness. 1. His relation to them as a Father. 2. His love to them, in respect as they being the birth of his everlasting counsel, are partakers of his own likeness. 3. The price of his Sons blood, and his Covenant with them. 4. Their dependance upon him, and expectation from him in all their straits. Now the expectations of the poor shall not perish, Psal. 9. 18. 5. Christs present imployment in heaven is to see all things carried fairly between God and them.

42. Brown bread with the Gospell, is good fare.

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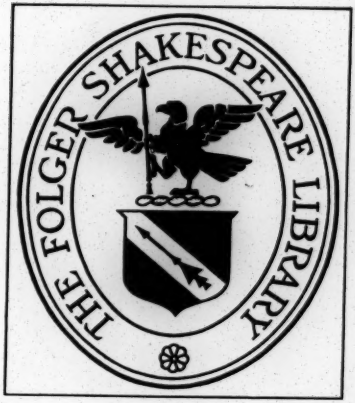
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